

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5317

To develop, coordinate, and improve the AMBER Alert communications network throughout the country.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GREENWOOD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HAYES, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SCHROCK, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BOYD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GRUCCI, and Mr. KELLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To develop, coordinate, and improve the AMBER Alert communications network throughout the country.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National AMBER
5 Alert Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMBER ALERT COORDINATION.**

2 (a) COORDINATOR.—The Attorney General shall es-
3 tablish an AMBER Alert Coordinator position (referred
4 to in this section as “the Coordinator”). The Coordinator
5 shall—

6 (1) establish, with the assistance of the Na-
7 tional Center for Missing and Exploited Children
8 and the Federal Communications Commission,
9 guidelines for implementing a statewide Amber Alert
10 plan not later than 60 days after the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act;

12 (2) provide technical assistance to the States,
13 broadcasters, and law enforcement agencies in im-
14 plementing AMBER Alert plans;

15 (3) certify, not later than 90 days after a cer-
16 tification request is received, to the Secretary of
17 Transportation any State that—

18 (A) has established or agrees to establish
19 a statewide AMBER Alert plan not later than
20 1 year after receiving a grant under section 3;

21 (B) agrees to establish a reciprocal ar-
22 rangement with other States, including sharing
23 of information regarding the initiation of an
24 AMBER Alert; and

25 (C) is in compliance with the guidelines es-
26 tablished pursuant to paragraph (1);

1 (4) deny certification, not later than 90 days
2 after a certification request is received and provide
3 notification of such denial to the Secretary of Trans-
4 portation, to any State that fails to comply with the
5 certification requirements described in paragraph
6 (3);

7 (5) monitor compliance and revoke certification
8 of any State that fails to establish an AMBER Alert
9 plan in accordance with the 1-year period referred to
10 in paragraph (3)(A) and provide notification of such
11 revocation to the State and the Secretary of Trans-
12 portation;

13 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
14 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
15 \$500,000 for fiscal year 2003 and such sums as may be
16 necessary for fiscal years 2004 through 2007. Such sums
17 shall remain available until expended.

18 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

19 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Transportation
20 shall make grants to States to develop, acquire, install,
21 and construct facilities and equipment along highways to
22 notify the public of missing children (including a descrip-
23 tion of such children), information regarding any abductor
24 of such children, and other relevant information.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—In order to be eligible to receive
2 a grant under this section, a State shall—

3 (1) adhere to the requirements of this section;

4 (2) apply to the Coordinator appointed under
5 section 2 for certification—

6 (A) in 2003, not later than March 1; and

7 (B) in subsequent years, not later than
8 January 1 of the year in which the State ex-
9 pects to receive funds; and

10 (3) include a projection of costs to implement
11 subsection (a).

12 (c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost
13 of a project for which a grant is made to a State under
14 this section in a fiscal year shall not exceed 50 percent.

15 (d) APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
16 priated to carry out this section shall be apportioned in
17 equal shares to each State that meets the requirements
18 of this Act.

19 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$99,500,000 for fiscal year 2003 and such sums as may
22 be necessary for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.
23 Such sums shall remain available until expended.

24 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

1 (1) AMBER ALERT.—The term “AMBER
2 Alert” (America’s Missing: Broadcast Emergency
3 Response Alert) means a voluntary partnership be-
4 tween law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to
5 activate an urgent bulletin in serious child abduction
6 cases. Broadcasters use the Emergency Alert System
7 (EAS), formerly referred to as the Emergency
8 Broadcast System, to air a description of the miss-
9 ing child and suspected abductor and any other rel-
10 evant information.

11 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
12 the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

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